



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 9, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM opposes Raised Bill 1011 "*An Act Concerning Recycling Programs in Schools*" as a new unfunded mandate on towns and cities.

This proposal would mandate local boards of education to develop and implement a recycling program in their schools. Further, it specifies that (1) the appropriate number of receptacles and signage be put in place; (2) a requirement be established for the proper disposal of recyclable items; and (3) training be done for custodial staff on the appropriate segregation of recyclable materials.

CCM has always been supportive of measures that would encourage increased recycling in Connecticut. While we understand that the intention of this proposal has a good public policy goal, if the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both - which they have already been doing, including laying off employees. This bill would only further exacerbate the current fiscal strains on municipalities.

Therefore, we ask that should the committee choose to move forward with this concept, that the language be carefully crafted to not include any unfunded mandates on municipalities. At any time, but especially during these tough economic times, if the State decides any such mandate is good policy, it should pay for them.

Short of the General Assembly providing full funding for this proposal, CCM urges the committee to take no action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver,
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